

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 9-21 of page 4 of the application with the following:

A concentration of switching capacity in one location is, however, undesirable for reasons of security and economics. ~~The self-configuring distributed switch with a high capacity optical core described in Applicant's co-pending Patent Application is limited in capacity and limited to switching entire channels.~~ Consequently, it is desirable to provide a high-capacity switch with a distributed core. Such a core has the advantages of being less vulnerable to destruction in the event of a natural disaster, for example. It is also more economical because strategic placement of distributed core modules reduces link lengths and provides shorter paths for localized data traffic.